

REMARKS

By the present amendment, claims 1 and 10 have been amended to recite that each of the layers has a thickness of 40 μm or less. Support for the amendment is found in the original application, in particular in the Examples.

Further, new claims 28-40 have been added. New claim 28 corresponds to claims 2 and 3 in the alternative, rewritten in independent form, new claims 29-32 correspond to claims 2-5, respectively, but are dependent on claim 28, new claim 33 corresponds to claims 11 and 12 in the alternative, rewritten in independent form, claims 34-37 correspond to claims 11-14, respectively, but are dependent on claim 33, and claims 38-40 correspond to claims 20-22 but are dependent on claim 28.

Claims 1-40 are pending in the present application. Independent claim 1, and claims 2-9 and 19-27 dependent directly or indirectly thereon, are directed to a polarizing plate. Independent claim 10, and claims 11-18 dependent directly or indirectly thereon, are directed to a liquid crystal display. Independent claim 28, and claims 29-32 and 38-40 dependent directly or indirectly thereon, are directed to a polarizing plate. Independent claim 33, and claims 34-37 dependent directly or indirectly thereon are directed to a liquid crystal display.

As a preliminary, in the Office Action, it is indicated that claims 2-5, 11-14 and 20-22 are now considered allowable over the cited art. New claims 28-40 correspond to the subject matter of the allowable claims. Accordingly, it is submitted that claims 28-40 are immediately allowable.

Next, in this second Office Action, claims 1, 6-10, 15-19, and 23-27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over JP 60-083903 (Nakano). It is alleged that Nakano discloses a film having $100\text{g/m}^2 \cdot 24\text{hr}$ moisture coefficient.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested. Nakano discloses that, "in order to achieve practically acceptable moisture permeability, the thickness of a protective layer made of macromolecular materials with relatively small moisture permeability is required to be 50 μm or more and desirably 100 μm or more" (translation of passage bridging pages 12-13 in the Japanese text of Nakano).

In contrast, in the present invention, as recited in present claim 1, all surfaces and sides of the polarizer are covered with low moisture-permeable layers having moisture permeability of 310 $\text{g/m}^2 \cdot 24\text{h}$ or less, and each of the layers has a thickness of 40 μm or less. An advantage of this construction is that it is possible to provide a thin polarizer with reduced dimensional changes in a high humidity environment, as explained in the specification. This feature of the presently claimed invention and its advantages are not taught or suggested in Nakano, and therefore, present claims 1, 5-10, 15-19 and 23-27 are not obvious over Nakano.

In view of the above, it is submitted that the rejection should be withdrawn.

In conclusion, the invention as presently claimed is patentable. It is believed that the claims are in allowable condition and a notice to that effect is earnestly requested.

In the event there is, in the Examiner's opinion, any outstanding issue and such issue may be resolved by means of a telephone interview, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Serial Number: 10/072,804

Group Art Unit: 2871

In the event this paper is not considered to be timely filed, the Applicants hereby petition for an appropriate extension of the response period. Please charge the fee for such extension and any other fees which may be required to our Deposit Account No. 50-2866.

Respectfully submitted,

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